

Appleby Archaeology

Notes of the Committee Meeting of the Appleby Archaeology Group held on Thursday November 12th 2015 at 11 Chestnut Close, Culgaith.

Present

Phyl Rouston	Chairman
Heather Edwards	Membership Secretary
Mike Godfrey	Treasurer
Martin Railton	Research
Martin Joyce	Newsletter
Richard Stevens	Secretary

Apologies

Carol Dougherty

Notes of the last meeting

The notes of the previous meeting were agreed to be a correct record.

1/11/15 Matters arising

None

2/11/15 Membership

Heather said that membership was, with the addition of one new and one returned member, a total of 68 members including joint memberships.

The database written by Martin J was working well and all users were happy with it.

3/11/15 Treasurer's Report

Mike provided a copy of the accounts for the period 20th August to 10th November, showing a positive balance of £4236.29. The cheque paid to David Mason for £35 had not been presented and was now out of date.

Because of the last minute change to Tuesday's speaker, nobody had thought to offer Harry Hawkins any expenses and Richard said he would contact Harry. **(Richard)**

Phyl asked if we should consider increasing the subscription rates for 2017, since we would have to give a one year notice of such a change at the AGM. This led on to a general discussion regarding upcoming costs. These included

1. Printing the newsletter once Martin R leaves the W-A office at Cocklakes early next year
2. Postage for the newsletter
3. Hire of venue for talks (Unknown until the question of which venue is answered.)

Martin J said that he should be able to resume printing at Milburn school at little additional cost. Approximately 30% of the membership had said that they would support receiving the newsletter as a PDF file via email, which would reduce yearly postage costs slightly. Personally, he said he would be sorry to see the printed newsletter disappear but agreed with others that we should try to look at ways of reducing costs wherever possible to postpone an increase in the membership subscription.

Phyl suggested that members wanting a printed copy could be asked to either cover the cost of the postage in addition to their membership fee, or at least make a contribution to it. Heather

said that we could put a box on the membership application form for renewing and new members requiring them to opt in to receiving the printed newsletter.

The outcome of the discussion was:

1. Membership form to include an 'opt in' tick box or similar for the printed newsletter ie. Default would be the PDF. **(Martin J)**
2. Leave the review of contributions to postage until later, at least until Mike has reviewed costs in general with regard to a possible subscription increase for 2017. **(Mike)**

4/11/15 Research

Martin R said that the Brackenber material was in the process of being analysed. Now that the Town Council had agreed to make the £100 grant for the collared urn conservation, he would send it to Karen Baker. Once returned, it would go to the W-A illustrator. **(Martin R)**

5/11/15 Appleby Town Project

1. Martin R said that another fieldwalking day had taken place and, as before, Barbara Blenkinship would be reviewing and cataloguing the pottery. The most interesting item found was a chert flake.
2. Richard handed round copies of the correspondence between himself & the HLF concerning which funding stream would be appropriate for the Project. The result was that he wanted the committee to confirm the approach recommended by HLF, which was to apply for initial funding in the 'Sharing Heritage' stream, which had a maximum grant of £10,000. Further funding, once the Project was running, could be made under the 'Our Heritage' stream, where grants of between £10,000 & £100,000 were available.

Martin R explained that he had provided Richard with initial costings to enable him to complete the online Project Enquiry form – these amounted to some £7,800 including VAT.

Richard said that he would proceed with the enquiry form and advise later.
(Richard/Martin R)

6/11/15 Correspondence

Richard said that he had been corresponding with the CWAAS in connection with getting the Group's events onto their website & email alerts. This was now complete.

Phyl asked whether we should bother to renew the subscription to the CLHF since we have never had any benefit from it. Richard concurred, having received no response to his various emails concerning their events listing. The committee agreed not to renew the subscription in January. **(Richard/Mike)**

Martin R said that he had heard from Paul Frodsham now that the Altogether Archaeology Project had come to an end. He had asked if we had received a Grant to complete the Brackenber post-excavation work and also to request that the reports on the projects which were completed under the Altogether Archaeology auspices were posted on a website. Martin R had explained that they were already posted on the Appleby Archaeology Group's website, where they had been for some time.

Martin R went on to say that there would be a new group, Altogether Archaeology.org which will be hoping to carry on the work of the project and that Paul might well end up leading it. They would be looking for funding and it would therefore be useful to make our application

before they got themselves organized in case of any conflict.

Martin R also said that Paul, having led the recent work at Long Meg, would be a possible speaker for our group at some stage.

Phyl said that she had received the newsletter of the A in W Society and had been alarmed by the possible extinction of the Society. Nobody was apparently coming forward to take on responsibility for running the group. She explained that this was a serious wakeup call for our group too & that the matter needs addressing. Martin R said that he was hoping that the Town Project would interest some younger people from the area and that if the A in W Society closed its doors, some members might be attracted to Appleby Archaeology. Martin J said that the age range of most of their members would be similar to ours, so there was little chance of new, active participation from that direction. Richard said that this was a general problem for many local community groups, not just in the archaeology & history fields. Unfortunately, Cumbria suffered worse than many counties because of the low population density. Phyl said that she felt increasingly concerned about this and intended to raise it as a serious problem for the future in her Chairman's report at the AGM. **(Phyl)**

7/11/15 Programme

There was a short discussion on the speakers for the AGM. Martin R said that he would use his research report during the AGM to give a verbal update and then go on to give a short 10-15 minute presentation on current research activities after the break. Phyl said that her talk on Great Orme Copper would be around 30 minutes in length, so it was agreed that Trish, who had offered to talk about her trip to Greece, should be offered another date. **(Richard)**

Two suggestions for summer activities had been received, a full day trip to follow the Eskdale Prehistoric Trail in Scotland and a visit St Michaels in Workington, combined with a visit to the Senhouse Museum in Maryport. A speaker had also been suggested – Alan Richardson on the planning of Roman forts and camps. All three would be considered at a later date.

8/11/15 Change of Venue

The committee had already decided that the Market Hall was not an ideal venue because it was too large and also because of the poor acoustics, although there had been a slight improvement to the latter through shifting the chairs through 45 degrees. Mike said that Centre 67 was being refurbished at present and it was not yet obvious how the space would be organized in future, nor was it clear how much the hire charge would be. Martin R said that he didn't favour returning to C67 and that a number of members had expressed dislike of the venue.

Bearing in mind that Phyl had exhaustively researched alternative venues a year ago, it was felt that the only viable solution would be to change from Tuesday to Thursday evening and return to the supper room. There are of course no guarantees that that we could keep Thursdays indefinitely, there is still the possibility that we might get bumped by another group wanting that evening throughout the year, however, this seems to be the best current option. Phyl proposed to introduce this at the AGM as a separate agenda item, explaining the options and asking for approval by a show of hands.

9/11/15 AOB

None

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm

Date and time of next meeting: 7.30pm on Thursday February 18th at The White House, Brampton